

STATE YOUTH COMMITTEE

Jan 13, 2005

10:00 – 11:00

DWS – S. County EC – Room 245

Members Present: Paul Otto, Job Corp; Rickie Bryan, AFL-CIO; Tom Darais, DHS/JJS; Jan Zogmaister, State Youth Council Chair; Julie Lay, DWS Mountainland; Gary Oliver, Southeast Region-Youth council chair;

DWS Staff: Sandra Allen – DWS secretary

Guests: James Whitaker, DWS deputy

Today the discussion was led by Tom and he focused on the Youth newsletter – It's About Youth".

The main areas of focus were increasing and widening the distribution, the content and submission deadlines.

The current distribution of this newsletter is approx. 60. Jan said that there are many different youth councils throughout the state and she wondered if our newsletter was being sent out to any of the surrounding cities. Jan would like WIA youth to have joint interactions with youth in other cities. It would be very beneficial to have them interact with each other. Distribution of this newsletter to other areas would be the best way to make other cities aware of the WIA program. Possibly kids from different areas could work together on various projects.

Partnerships with other Youth Councils is something that has been set as a goal.

Distribution Suggestions:

- When doing the mail-out, possibly addressing it to the Youth councils in the city. Research is required to determine the email addresses of various youth council contacts, as e-mail is the main distribution channel.
- Tom suggested that a hardcopy should be sent, with the introduction explaining our reasoning/goals for sending the newsletter and within that introduction asking if they would like this in the future via e-mail. The Chair could do this introduction.
- Julie suggested talking to their point of contact from the Council and getting a Youth council name from them.
- Jan noted that the reason for increasing the distribution is not necessarily trying to get more kids on the WIA program, but to get the word-out on what is being done.
- Paul suggested that high schools would be interested in receiving this newsletter.

Content Suggestions:

- More stories are required on Youth and success stories.
- Clearer, narrower guidelines for content are required. Instead of just asking regions to submit their articles.
- Also have them send in “best practices”, this would be for sharing purposes and not to be looked at as a competition between regions.
- More pictures, community interest stories
- Also highlighting the Just for Youth web site and possibly a hands-on demonstration could be done.
- Employers that are concentrating on youth could also be included – stories of what was done, pictures etc. Jan’s goal is to get to the point where businesses are contacting us and telling us what they can offer some of the kids. – Summer would be a great time to highlight this.

Deadlines:

- It needs to be communicated that a missed deadline may mean that articles will not be published in the next newsletter, and if the content does not fall within the guidelines, it may also be excluded.

General Discussion & Questions:

James Whitaker, after listening to some of the concerns, issues, suggestions asked; Do we have a youth strategy? Possibly the intervening in the early stages in a youths life across different agencies would be more beneficial to the customers instead of waiting for them later in life when our assistance is required.

Per Jan, at one time, summer jobs were given to youth temporarily, and then months later, located and finding these kids again for another temporary job. A strategic goal would be to serve these kids 12mths a year.

Paul suggested serving the middle school and high school populations with soft skills training and not just a quick class.

The curriculum of high-school seniors was also discussed – an example: a student during her senior year was not allowed to retake a course she already took and previously passed. This would have been beneficial to her well as a refresher course prior to entering college. Instead, an art course was taken – just for the credit.

Paul mentioned that at Job Corp, including some of the high school graduates – many of them do not have the basic skills for obtaining and keeping employment.

Any further ideas/suggestions, please forward to Tom and/or Julie.

Action Item:

Julie will ensure this newsletter is updated to show that it is a UTAH newsletter.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:55 a.m.